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Prayers

By the

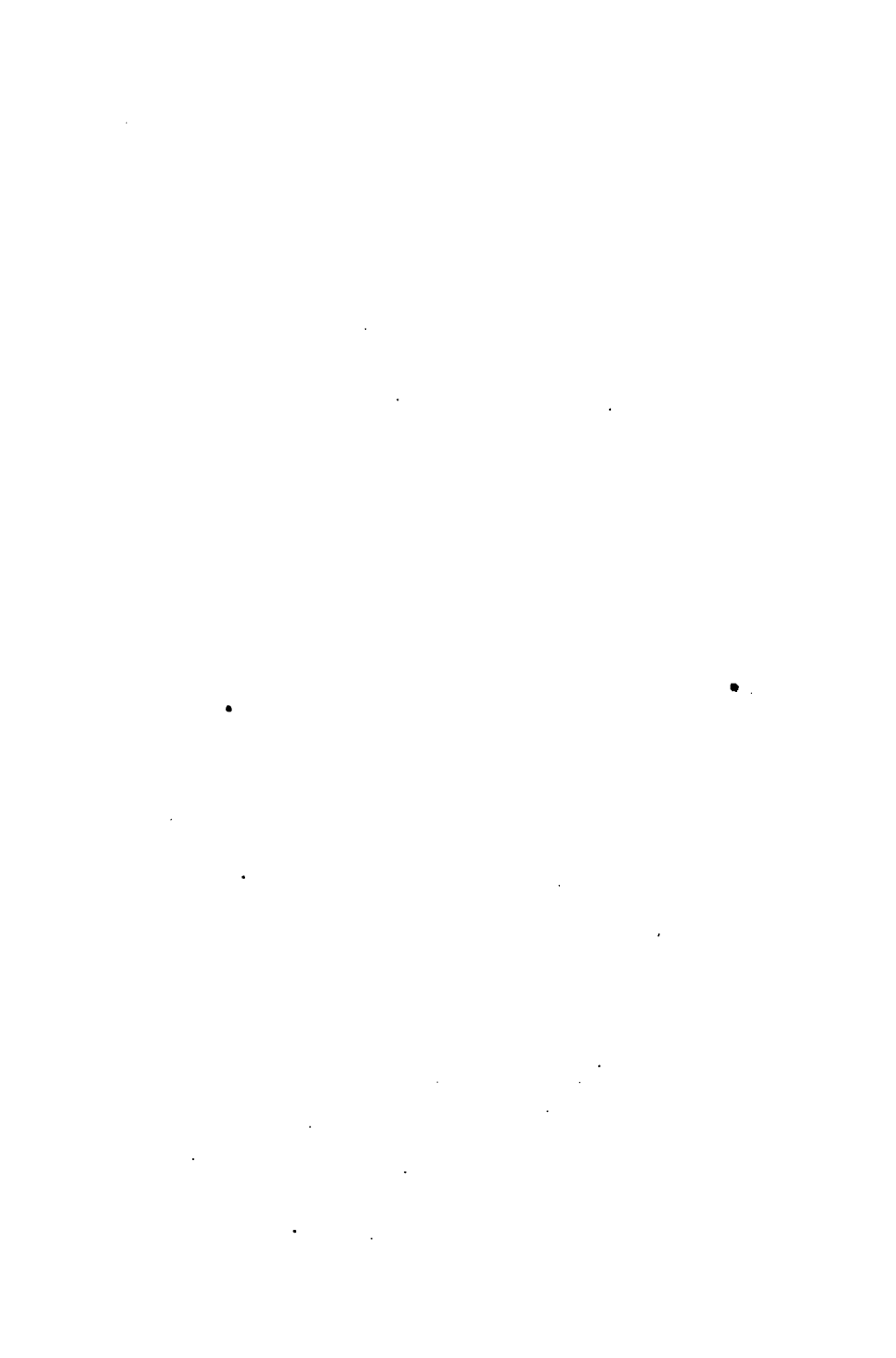
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A MANUAL

INTENDED TO AID THE PIOUS CHRISTIAN
IN THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER
AND PRIVATE DEVOTION.

Dedicated to his Parishioners,

BY

JOHN FRERE,

RECTOR OF COTTENHAM, IN THE DIOCESE OF ELY;
AND CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF LONDON.

"Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks."—1 THESS. v. 17.
"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in
the midst of them."—S. MATT. xviii. 20.



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PREFACE.

THIS Manual of Prayers was already in the press when it pleased Almighty God to take the Author to his rest. He had designed it in the first instance to be offered privately to his Parishioners, and it is now published in furtherance of his wishes and in the hope that it may prove an acceptable Memorial of his affection for his flock, as well as an assistance to them in forming and maintaining that habit of watchfulness and prayer which was exemplified in his own daily life, and which was undoubtedly the best preparation for the summons by which he has been so suddenly called away.

To others too who had the happiness of being acquainted with the Author, this little work may be valuable as a memorial of a singleminded and faithful servant of Christ, who, with much earnestness, and unwearied diligence and patience, employed the talents which God had

bestowed upon him in the service of the Church at large, as well as in that part of it to which he had been appointed a minister. The removal of such a man in the prime of life may appear to be a mysterious dispensation of Providence and a trial of our faith. But while we mourn the loss from amongst us of so bright an example of devoted piety, holy purity, and godly simplicity and truth, rendered peculiarly attractive by the gentle and cheerful tenderness and love which characterized him, we may be permitted humbly to rejoice in the hope that he is now at rest, joyfully awaiting that day when he will receive the full reward of his labours and reap the fruit of those prayers which he constantly offered upon earth, being found meet, through God's mercy and Christ's merits, for the inheritance of the Saints in light, and for joining with Angels and Archangels in eternal hymns of praise around the throne of the Most High.

August, 1851.

ADDRESS.

THE following Manual is designed to aid you, my brethren and sisters of this Parish, in your private prayers, the regular performance of which all Christians acknowledge to be their duty; and which I feel persuaded is often neglected for the want of suitable words whereby to express ourselves before God.

I trust you will allow me to supply this want; for to be your assistant in the way of godliness is not my duty merely, but my heart's desire, and, I may truly say, the highest ambition of my life.

These Prayers are designed for the use of families as well as of individuals: not many of them are for *special occasions*, it having been my principal object to provide for the every-day necessities of a Christian life. This, however, has been done with some variety, that each person might select such forms as he finds most suitable. They are arranged under several heads; the intention being that one Prayer should be chosen from each head, in the order in which they are arranged.

I will add that families which cannot meet *twice* every day to pray together, might, at any rate, meet *once*; either at night, or morning: and that it is evidently expedient that the reading of some portion of God's holy Word should always either begin or conclude the devotions.

And I would finally suggest that those who cannot attend the daily services at Church, might do well to prefer for their family reading, those chapters in the Bible which are appointed in the Prayer-Book for the daily Lessons.

I now commend this work, and yourselves, to the blessing of God.

COTTENHAM RECTORY,
Easter, 1851.

THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER.

He that provideth not for his own, says the Apostle, and especially for those of his own house, hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. Surely if this be true of a provision for the bodily wants of those who depend upon us, it cannot be less applicable to their spiritual necessities.

With regard to our children, I need not say a word, to prove the obligation which binds us to *bring them up*, by every possible means, *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*; to form them to early habits of piety and devotion; to make them betimes acquainted with God. If we know what religion is ourselves, our natural affection will inspire us with an earnest wish to make our children walk in her ways. With regard to our servants; as we look to them for honesty, sobriety, diligence, and gratitude, it is our duty to set before them the only motives which can effectually influence them to the exercise of these virtues; to make them, as far as we can, sincere and serious Christians; and to lay the foundations of obedience in faith and piety.

But the Christian is actuated by higher and purer motives than a regard to his own personal advantages. It is in his power, and therefore it must be his duty, to set his household forward in the way to heaven. Every Christian ought to be the head and guide of the Church in his own house; to instruct, admonish, and encourage all its inmates to the zealous performance of their duty to their common LORD and Master. Oh, what a blessed thing would it be for this Christian country, if this principle were acted up to, and every family were made a seminary of religious principles and habits! The bitter waters, which mingle themselves too plentifully in the stream of human life, would then be sweetened at their source; the *Word of the Lord* would have *free course and be glorified*. If there be no instruction nor devotion in the family, the public ministry of the Word will lose half its efficacy. It is not the solemn ordinances of the Church alone which are the appointed means of upholding true religion. The clergyman must be assisted, and the way prepared for him, by the private exercises of domestic religion. We call upon every head of a family to aid our ministry. Of what use will it be for *us* to tell your children, and servants, every Lord's day, of the unspeakable importance of religion, unless, during the remainder of the

week, our doctrine is confirmed by the practice of those whom they are accustomed to respect?

We all know how powerfully mankind in general are influenced by example; and especially by the example of those above them.

This should never be lost sight of by those whose example is likely to influence *even a single Christian*. It places in a strong point of view the sinfulness of neglecting public devotion, and of violating the sanctity of the Lord's day; and it shews the great importance and advantage of family religion.

By family religion, I mean chiefly *family prayers*; for it is in the exercises of devotion that religion will shew itself; and prayer is the most direct and effectual means of awakening a spirit of piety, and keeping alive the holy flame when it has been kindled.

Surely there cannot be a more rational or promising commencement of our daily occupations, than a common offering of prayer and praise to God. Surely we cannot close the day more happily than by again assembling in the presence of the Lord; to render to him an account of our proceedings; to acknowledge our own defects, and his exceeding mercies; to pray for the pardon of our sins; and to recreate our souls, which have been too much occupied by this world's vanities

viii THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER.

and cares, with those living waters which his holy Word supplies.

Amongst those who may read these remarks there is not, I am persuaded, one who will not acknowledge them to be just; not one who will be insensible of the blessing which *must* result from the habitual practice of *family prayer*. And yet many, it is to be feared, neglect it. And why? Can they give such a reason for the neglect as would satisfy their own consciences?

Surely no Christian will plead want of time and opportunity. We have time to sleep, time to eat and drink, time for work, and time for amusement, time to converse with our friends and neighbours: and can we find no time to converse with God? Shall there be time for everything except for prayer?

But perhaps some do not like to begin what they have not been accustomed to. This surely can only be because they have not duly considered its importance, its propriety, its *necessity*.

Some are hindered by a kind of shame. They would not be supposed to think more about religion than other people,—they dread the imputation of hypocrisy. But ought anything to make us ashamed of performing our Christian duty?

Others would not appear to be singular. But is this a pious practice, or is it not? Will it, or

will it not, make us better and holier? Why should any man dread to be singularly good, and singularly happy? And where would be the singularity if this practice were as general as it ought to be? Formerly it was considered, in this country, to be a regular branch of religious duty. God in his mercy grant that we may again see it estimated and observed as it ought to be.

Remember what encouragement we have for the performance of this duty, in that gracious promise of our blessed Redeemer, "*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*"

THE SPIRIT OF SUPPLICATION ENSURES THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS. Happy indeed is that family where Jesus dwells: where He is, there will be wisdom, and holiness, and love, and joy, and peace.

But if, after all, the benefits of family devotion should be less *immediate*, or less *apparent*, within the circle of our own experience, than we perhaps *imagine* we have reason to expect, are we therefore to conclude them to be wanting; are we to desist in our duty? or are we not rather to believe that "in due season we shall reap *if we faint not*"?

At any rate, if any part of our household should unhappily misconduct themselves, we shall have the

X THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER.

satisfaction of reflecting that their misconduct will not be attributable to our own neglect—a comfort which never can be ours if we have omitted this most reasonable and promising of all the methods by which our households might have been preserved in the faith and fear of God.

Christian, are you a father, or a master? Remember, I beseech you, that you do not stand alone in the world; that you have others to take care of, and to answer for, as well as yourself. Neglect no opportunity of forwarding them in the way of life: but set them onward in their course, lead them and go along with them yourself; their companion, friend, and guide. Bring them to an acquaintance and fellowship with Christ; teach them to converse daily with God. Give them every help to the faithful discharge of their duty, for *their* sake and for your *own*. Make every morning and evening a season of mutual advancement in the road to glory; comfort and encourage one another by the way. It is by the sanctification of your own family that you will contribute to a great national improvement in piety and virtue; and not only ensure the blessing of God upon your own household, but diffuse a healing influence beyond the immediate sphere of your example. The nation is but an aggregate of families. The religion there-

fore of families is the best security for the religion of the nation.

And you who are parents will reflect that you are in an eminent degree concerned for the religion of your families.

Those children, whom God has given you, *must live for ever*; but whether in happiness or misery will depend materially upon yourselves. It is your blessed privilege to educate those souls for heaven. You have been the instruments of their birth: without you, they never would have existed; God grant that you may have joy in them for ever, and may never have to say, "It had been good for them that they never had been born."

*In the Patriarchal dispensation heads of families discharged priestly functions; and in the religion of Christ they have priestly responsibilities. *Here* is no prohibition against the weaker sex. Here *a woman may teach*; a Lois and an Eunice may prepare a pupil for St. Paul.

Perhaps the best lessons that are ever learnt, are learnt at a mother's knees. Let parents, then,

* The preceding sentences are derived principally from a Tract by the Bishop of London.

What follows is extracted from the xvi. and concluding Number of Dr. Wordsworth's Occasional Sermons, entitled "*On the Privileges and Duties of the Christian Laity.*"

xii THE DUTY OF FAMILY PRAYER.

read God's word to their households; let them exercise godly discipline; as St. Augustine says, Let a parent execute, as it were, an episcopal office in his own home; let him take care that those *within his gates* do not profane the Lord's day; let him encourage and instruct them, by precept and example, to make the Sabbath a delight; let him sanctify their meals by invoking God's blessing upon them; let him endeavour to make his house a school for the church militant on earth, and for the church triumphant in heaven.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS.

I.

"Ask, and it shall be given you."—St. Matth. vii. 7.

"If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us."

1 John, v. 14.

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

"The Spirit helpeth our infirmities."—Rom. viii. 26.

ASSIST us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, that we who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to ask according to thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

"God is in heaven, and thou upon earth."—Eccles. v. 2.

O God, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness, be ready to hear our prayers, and grant that those things which we ask faithfully, we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION.

I.

"I said I will confess my sins unto the Lord, and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin."—Ps. xxxii. 6.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep ; We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts ; We have offended against thy holy laws ; We have left undone those things which we ought to have done ; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done ; And there is no health in us : But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults ; Restore thou them that are penitent. According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu, our Lord : And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life ; To the glory of thy holy name. *Amen.*

II.

[To be used if the conscience is troubled with any weighty matter.]

"With the Lord is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption."—Ps. cxxx. 7.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord : though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."—Isa. i. 18.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness ; according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin : for I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight, that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, and in sin hath my mother conceived me : but lo ! thou requirest truth in the inward parts, and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean ; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, that

the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds; make me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of thy help again, and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health, and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall shew thy praise.

Thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

PRAYERS FOR PARDON.

I.

"When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."—S. Mark xi. 25.

O LORD, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences: that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

II.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Prov. xxviii. 13.

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

IV.

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions ; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us, for the honour of Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

"After this manner pray ye."—S. Matt. vi. 9.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ; Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread ; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil ; For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYERS.

I.

"Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Prov. xxvii. 1.

ALMIGHTY God and heavenly Father, we bless thy holy name for the mercy which has preserved us this night, and brought us in safety to the beginning of another day: keep us in the same from sin and from all danger ; and grant that we may so live all the days which thou shalt give us upon earth, that, when the light of this life is over, we may live in the light of everlasting day, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

II.

"His compassions fail not; they are new every morning."

Lam. iii. 22, 23.

O God, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, mercifully look upon our frailty and infirmity, and grant us such health and strength of body and soul as thou knowest to be needful for us, that we may ever serve thee with all our might and ability, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

"The day is thine, and the night is thine."—Ps. lxxiv. 16.

ALMIGHTY God, maker of heaven and earth, the darkness goeth away, and the light cometh at thy command; thou art good, and doest good continually.

I thank thee, O God, that thou hast preserved me from the dangers of the night, and hast brought me safe to the beginning of this day: keep me in the same from sin and from all evil, and make me thy true and faithful servant, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

IV.

BLESS me, O Lord, in my calling, to such purposes as thou shalt choose for me; relieve me in all sadness; make my bed in my sickness; give me patience in my sorrows; confidence in thee; grace to call upon thee in all temptations.

Be Thou my guide in all my actions; my protector in all dangers. Give me a healthful body and a clear understanding; a sanctified and just, a charitable and humble, a religious and contented, a temperate and sober, a cheerful and a thankful spirit.

Let not my life be miserable and wretched, nor my name stained with sin and shame; nor my condition lifted up to a tempting and dangerous fortune: but let my condition be blessed; my conversation useful to my neighbours and pleasing to Thee; and when my body shall lie down in the bed of darkness, grant that my soul may pass to the regions of light, and live with Thee for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V.

"I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me."

Jerem. xxxi. 26.

GLORY be to thee, O God, all glory be to thee for the sleep which thou hast graciously given me this night; a seasonable recruit to the wastings, and a kind intermission to the labours of this poor weak and wearied body. And now that thou hast added to the number of my days, grant that this, and every day, may be employed to the perfecting of holiness in thy fear, and sweetened with the comforts of health, of peace, of innocence.

Grant that thy holy angel may watch round about me; thy Holy Spirit dwell within me: that all sins, offences, and neglects of my days already gone, may, by thy mercy, be freely pardoned, and entirely done away.

Be pleased to bless the world with prosperity and peace, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness.

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever

things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, grant that I may think on these things, and do them.

And since this life must shortly have an end, grant that mine may be concluded by a truly christian death, a death perfectly void of sin and shame, and, if such be thy good pleasure, free from extreme pain too.

Above all, in that it is appointed unto all men once to die, and after that the judgment, grant that I may appear with comfort, and find a favourable account, at the great and terrible tribunal of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

PRAYERS TO BE ADDED ON
A SUNDAY MORNING.

I.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it."—Ps. cxviii. 24.

O ALMIGHTY God, who of thy great goodness hast set apart one day in seven to be kept holy, and to be a rest and refreshment to our bodies and our souls, grant us the heart to value, and the will to profit by thy mercies, and bring us to thy eternal sabbath, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

"The same day, being the first day of the week, the disciples were assembled."—S. Luke xx. 19.

HAVE mercy, gracious Lord, upon those who shall, either here or elsewhere, this day call upon thy holy name. Fill thy Church with willing worshippers, and pour

down upon us the Spirit of grace and supplication, that we may offer unto thee a sacrifice in righteousness, and carry home those blessings which thou hast promised to all that faithfully serve thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

"Now when Jesus was risen early, the first day of the week."

S. Mark xvi. 9.

THROUGH the tender mercy of our God the dayspring from on high hath visited us.

Glory be to thee, O Lord, all glory be to thee, who didst, as on this day, create the light, and command it to shine on the face of the deep.

O Thou, who on this day didst rise again, raise up our souls unto newness of life; granting us repentance from dead works, and planting us in the likeness of thy resurrection.

And Thou, O Father and God of peace, who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of

the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant ; make us perfect in every good work, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy sight.

O Lord, who hast consecrated this day to be a day of rest, a constant return of thy solemn worship by prayers and praises, by hearing of thy word, and administration of thy sacraments, in the public assemblies of the saints, and the house where thy honour dwelleth, and a figure and a pledge of that better rest which remaineth for the people of God ; grant us so to use these days of rest and of public worship in this life, that we fail not of our part in thy eternal rest, and in the continual hymns of angels and blessed spirits in the life to come ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

IV.

*"Ye shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my Sanctuary.
I am THE LORD."*—Levit. xix. 30, and xxvi. 2.

O LORD, who hast consecrated this good day to thy service, give us grace so to observe it, that it may be the beginning of a happy week to us, and that none of thy judgments may fall upon us for profaning it. Fix in our hearts this great truth, that here we have no abiding place, that we may seriously and timely provide for another life: and grant that this great concern may make us very desirous to learn our duty, and to do what thou requirest of us: and blessed be God that we have churches to go to; that we have time to serve our Creator; that we have ministers to teach us. The Lord prosper their labours, and give us grace to profit by them, that they and we may enjoy an everlasting Sabbath with thy saints in heaven, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

FAMILY PRAYERS.

I.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Josh. xxiv. 15.

LORD, we beseech thee, keep this household continually in thy true religion, that we who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace, may evermore be defended by thy mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

"He blesseth the habitation of the just."—Prov. iii. 33.

O LORD GOD, who upholdest and governest all things in heaven and earth, receive our humble petitions; and so bless this family, that, ever trusting in thy goodness, protected by thy power, and crowned

with thy gracious favour, we may continue before thee in health and peace, in joy and prosperity; and after death obtain everlasting glory in the kingdom of heaven, by the merits and mediation of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

III.

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."—Ps. cxxxiii. 1.

ETERNAL God, our heavenly Father, who alone makest men to be of one mind in a house, give us grace to order our lives, according to thy will, in lowliness and reverence to those above us, in condescension and kindness to those below, in christian love and charity to all; that so, each esteeming other better than himself, we may dwell together in the unity of the Spirit, and the bond of peace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

IV.

"Render to all their dues."—Rom. xiii. 7.

O GOD, who hast appointed divers ranks and orders among mankind, give unto us thy servants grace to submit ourselves one to another in thy fear; grant that they who are in authority may govern without threatening, and they who are obedient do service with good will; that so, rendering unto all their dues, we may obtain the reward of the inheritance from our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYERS.

I.

*"Evening and Morning, and at Noon will I pray and cry aloud,
and he shall hear my voice."*—Ps. lv. 17.

WE come unto Thee, O God, for quiet and repose, and new supplies of strength to drooping nature: lighten our eyes that we sleep not in death.

O most merciful God, let this season of rest be an entire cessation to us as well from sin, as from labour and sorrow; and suffer not any thought to surprise our unguarded minds which may either displease Thee, or defile us.

Let not the follies of sensual pleasure abuse us, but our reins, rather, chasten us in the night season, that our sleep may be perfectly composed and pure; quiet from every worldly and wicked imagination: and do thou, Lord, drive away all suggestions of the devil or the flesh.

Thou beholdest the wakefulness of our enemies, which attack us unseen, and our weakness to resist them is not hid from Thee; who knowest whereof we are made, and rememberest that we are but dust.

Take us then under the shadow of thy wings, let thy lovingkindness and thy truth alway preserve us: and after such refreshment as Thou knowest to be needful for us, raise Thou us up again to make our prayer unto Thee in a time when thou mayest be found, that so we may begin our every day with Thee, by setting forth most thankfully thy praises, and dedicating ourselves entirely to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

"The day goeth away, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out."—Jerem. vi. 4.

O LORD God, who knowest all things, and seest me by night as well as by day, I pray thee, for Christ's sake, forgive me whatsoever I have done amiss this day, and guard

me from the dangers of the night. Let me lie down under thy care, O Lord, and abide for ever under thy blessing; for thou art the God of all power and everlasting mercy. *Amen.*

III.

"Thou makest darkness, and it is night."—Ps. civ. 20.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and by Thy great mercy defend us from the perils and dangers of the night. Let no evil happen unto us, no plague come nigh our dwellings: but grant us quiet and refreshing rest, and such as may fit us for the duties of the morrow.

And, Lord, make us ever mindful of that time when we shall lie down in the dust: and since we know neither the day nor the hour when we may be summoned to the judgment-seat of Christ, give us grace that we may be always ready; and may ever so live that we may never fear to die: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER ON SUNDAY EVENING.

Most merciful God, who hast permitted thy sinful creatures to approach Thee in prayer and praise, pardon the imperfections of our service ; and bless, we beseech Thee, the worship which we have offered, and the words which we have heard this day : that both the present week and all our after lives, being guided by Thy Spirit and ordered according to Thy will, may be spent to Thy glory, and the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

AT BED TIME.

"A night cometh when no man can work."

INTO Thy gracious hands, O Lord, I commend myself, my body, soul, and spirit, which Thou hast created and redeemed, O Lord, thou God of truth.

Together with me, take also under Thy fatherly care and protection, Thy servants, [my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, my friends and relations, my patrons and benefactors, and my godchildren].

Preserve our lying down and our rising up, from this time forth for evermore.

Make me to remember thee on my bed, to think upon thee when I am waking, to commune with my heart, and search out my spirit, for thou art about my path and about my bed, and when I wake up I am present with thee.

I will lay me down and take my rest, for it is thou Lord only that makest me dwell in safety.

A PRAYER

BEFORE RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER.

"This do in remembrance of me."—St. Luke xxii. 19.

O ALMIGHTY God, whose Son, our Lord, on the same night in which he was betrayed, did institute and ordain holy mysteries, as pledges of his love, and for a continual remembrance of his death; give us grace so fully by faith to apprehend thy promises, so earnestly by repentance to amend our lives, so truly to walk in love and charity, in holiness and righteousness, that we may worthily draw near, and partake effectually of that most blessed Sacrament of his Body and Blood, to our present and everlasting comfort; through the merits of the same, thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING

AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION.

I ACKNOWLEDGE, O Lord my God, with all thankfulness of heart, thy great mercy and goodness vouchsafed to me this day, in giving me an opportunity of approaching thy holy Table.

Glory be to thee, O Lord, for the fresh supplies of grace I have received at thy hand.

Glory be to thee for those comfortable promises thou hast given me of pardon and forgiveness.

Glory be to thee, O Lord God Almighty, for that peace and quiet thou hast restored to my soul; for those resolutions thou hast wrought in me to continue in thy service to the end of my life. Let it be my whole care to walk worthy of these thy great mercies, and to live such an holy and good life as becomes the redeemed of the Lord.

Lead me, O God, through this vale of misery and sorrow, and conduct me by the paths of peace and holiness to my own home, even my heavenly country, the land of promise, the presence and enjoyment of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

A PRAYER

FOR MARRIED PERSONS.

O ALMIGHTY God, who didst send thy blessing upon Abraham and Sarah to their great comfort, so vouchsafe to send thy blessing upon us thy servants; that we, obeying thy will, and alway being in safety under thy protection, may abide in thy love unto our lives' end.

Bless our children, and grant that, regenerated by thy Holy Spirit, and educated in thy holy ways, they may live in thy fear, and when life is over, die in thy favour.

(If any are afflicted add)

Have mercy upon those that are afflicted, and be pleased to restore them to health and strength: and grant that they may grow up to adorn the doctrine of Christ their Saviour in all things, through the merits of the same, thy blessed Son our Lord. *Amen.*

A HUSBAND'S PRAYER.

"Husbands, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife."—1 Pet. iii. 7.

BLESS, O Lord, I humbly pray thee, my wife, whom thou hast given to be with me. Let the hand of thy blessing be upon her head night and day: support her in all dangers; carry her through all temptations; comfort her in all troubles; let her be thy servant in all changes. Grant that we may dwell together in piety, in charity, in chastity; in mutual kind offices and goodwill: and, when this world is over, grant that we may dwell with thee in the world everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A WIFE'S PRAYER.

"Ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands."—1 Pet. iii. 1.

O MY God, who hast been graciously pleased to call me to the holy estate of matrimony, grant that I may be chaste in body and spirit; and loving and obedient to my husband. Bless him with a long life, with a healthful body, with an understanding soul; with abundance of thy graces, which may make him to be and to continue thy servant; a faithful son of the Church; a supporter and guide of me his wife; a blessing and a comfort to his family, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PARENT'S PRAYER.

[To be added to either of the former.]

BLESS, O LORD, those children which thou hast given us, with gifts and graces of thy Spirit, with sweet dispositions and holy habits; sanctify and strengthen them throughout, in body, soul, and spirit, and keep them unblameable to thy coming, O Lord. *Amen.*

A PARENT'S PRAYER.

"His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."

1 Sam. iii. 13.

Most gracious and eternal God, Father of all mankind, grant us thy grace and favour, that we may instruct with diligence, and educate in pureness, in knowledge, and in faith unfeigned, those children which thou hast given us. Grant that we may govern them with prudence and holiness; provide for them sufficiently; and set them good examples—never provoking them to wrath; never indulging their follies, nor conniving at their sins: that as they grow in years they may grow in favour both with God and man; and having learnt obedience to their earthly parents, may never disobey Thee; through the merits of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR A GODCHILD.

HAVE mercy upon * * * thy child, O God, and grant that, regenerated by thy Holy Spirit, he may be educated in thy holy ways, and grow in wisdom as he grows in years.

Perfect, in thy good time, thy work ; and seal him with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter ; that, strengthened by thy might in the inner man, he may triumph over the world, the flesh, and the devil ; and being found without fault before thy throne, may be thine when thou shalt make up thy jewels ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH.

I.

HAVE mercy, Lord, upon the universal Church, preserve her in the unity of the Faith, and in the profession of thy true religion; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness, that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III.

LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness.

Bless all her branches that they may be fruitful in all the world, and chiefly bless this parish, for which we are chiefly bound to pray: grant that thy Ministers may teach thy truth and keep thy commandments, and thy people obediently follow their doctrine and holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR THE CLERGYMAN.

" Brethren, pray for us."—1 Thess. v. 25.

BLESSED LORD, who, on thy ascension into Heaven, didst leave thy household the Church; and gavest to thy servants authority and to every man his work; have mercy, we humbly beseech thee, upon him whom thou hast made a Minister of thy Word and Steward of thy Mysteries in this place; that being in all things himself a pattern of good works, he may shew unto us the good and the right way, and labour with such success that he may not labour in vain, through thy merits, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

IN BEHALF OF THE PARISH.

"The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich."—Prov. x. 22.

ALMIGHTY LORD and heavenly Father, have mercy upon this place in which we dwell ; bless us with prosperity and peace ; grant that our oxen may be strong to labour, that there be no decay, that our sons may grow up as young plants, and our daughters as the polished corners of the temple ; and that perfect love, and brotherly kindness, and true religion may flourish and abound.

Put far from us noise and contention, envy and evil speaking, drunkenness and idleness, lust and wantonness, disorder and disobedience ; and grant that we may come to the unity of the Faith and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

FOR UNITY.

"I pray . . . that they all may be one."—S. John xvii. 20, 21.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace, give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great sin and danger of our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our calling; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all; so we may henceforth be all of one Heart, and of one Soul, united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity; and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE AFFLICTED.

I.

"Remember them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."—Heb. xiii. 3.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast made all things, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, have mercy upon all labouring in this transitory life under any affliction whether of mind or body, especially those of this parish. Grant them patience in time of adversity, and crown their patience with everlasting glory.

Upon us who enjoy the blessings of health and strength, pour down thy grace and heavenly benediction, that we may remember from whom those blessings come, and diligently employ them in thy service.

Teach us to remember how frail and uncertain our own condition here in life is, and so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, through the merits of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

40 INTERCESSIONS FOR THE AFFLICTED.

II.

"Call upon me in time of trouble."

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, have mercy upon thy servant * * * * now visited by thy chastening hand: make thou all his bed in his sickness; defend him from the malice of the enemy; support him by thy grace; and comfort him by thy Holy Spirit; give him repentance for all his sins; a sure hope, and a patient spirit; and grant that, recovered to his former health, he may praise thee for past mercies by obeying thee for the time to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER

FOR GRACE TO LEAD A GOOD LIFE.

"God will withhold no good thing from them that lead a godly life."—Ps. lxxxiv. 11.

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR GRACE TO KEEP THE PROMISES OF OUR BAPTISM.

"Promise unto the Lord your God, and keep it."

LORD, we beseech thee grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil ; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER
FOR THE HOLY GHOST.

"God will give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him."


Luke xi. 13.

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR PRESERVATION.

"The Lord preserveth all them that love him."—Ps. cxlv. 20.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



A PRAYER

FOR TRUE RELIGION.

*"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ."*—2 Pet. iii. 18.

LORD of all power and might, who art
the author and giver of all good things,
graft in our hearts the love of thy Name;
increase in us true religion; nourish us
with all goodness; and, of thy great mercy,
keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*

LITTLE CHILDREN'S PRAYERS.

IN THE MORNING.

"Children, obey your parents."—Eph. vi. 1.

BLESSED be thy Name, O Lord God, who hast kept me safe from the dangers of the night past. Bless my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all my friends and relations. O God, bless me and make me a good child, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

AT NIGHT.

"Children, obey your parents."—Col. iii. 20.

O LORD, bless and preserve my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, this night and evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

AS THE CHILD GROWS UP, LET THIS PRAYER
BE USED MORNING AND EVENING.

"Honour thy father and thy mother."—Exod. xx. 12.

O LORD, my God and Saviour, who didst command that little children should come unto thee, and didst take them up in thine arms, and lay thine hands upon them, and bless them : look graciously upon me thy child, and bless me : preserve me [*say this day, or this night*] from all evil and danger both of body and soul. Give me, O God, what thou seest good for me, especially an heart to know thee early, to love thee, and to do thy will : bless my father and my mother, my brothers and sisters : grant that I may live in obedience to my parents, and as I grow in years, may grow in grace and in thy favour ; and may be fit at length to be made happy with thee in heaven for evermore. And this I beg for the sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

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A PRAYER

TO BE USED MORNING AND EVENING BY A
SERVANT OR YOUNG PERSON.

O ALMIGHTY LORD GOD, who hast taught me, that the time of youth is the most acceptable, grant me the assistance of thy blessed Spirit, to enable me to do those things which I promised at my baptism: that I may abstain from impure and fleshly lusts; that I may never be led by any temptations of profit or pleasure to do wickedly, and provoke thy wrath against me; but may endeavour to keep all thy commandments unto my life's end.

Bless my parents [*or master*], and teach me to behave myself dutifully and reverently towards them. Make me sober and temperate, chaste and holy, in all my thoughts and actions, well knowing that thine eye is always over me, *who art about my bed, and about my path, and spiest out all my ways.*

•

Grant that I may live in such a careful and godly manner here, that when I depart hence to appear before thee in the other world, I may render up a good account, and be received into thy favour, and the kingdom of Heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER

TO BE OFFERED BY AGED PERSONS.

O FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only support in time of trouble and weakness, look down, I beseech thee, with pity and compassion upon me, thy afflicted servant, whose strength is now but labour and sorrow, and who am like to one of those who go down into the grave: the more the outward man decayeth, do thou strengthen me so much the more continually with thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. I confess with sorrow, that many have been the sins which I have committed in so long a course of years, and that the cares and pleasures of this world have taken up too much of that time which should have been employed in thy service, and the great work of my salvation.

But, O gracious Lord God, with thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth, but grant me unfeigned repentance for all the errors of my past life, and steadfast faith in thy Son Jesus, that my sins may be done away by thy mercy, and my pardon sealed in Heaven, before I go hence, and am no more seen. I know not, O Lord, how long it may please thee to continue my abode here on earth; yet forasmuch as in all appearance the time of my dissolution draweth near, enable me to spend what little of my time is yet remaining, in fitting and preparing myself against the hour of death; that after my departure hence in peace and in thy favour, my soul may be received into thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING PRAYERS.

I.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in Heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's Name, we beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ears to us that have made now our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked, according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A BENEDICTION.*

THE Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

A GRACE BEFORE MEALS.

O LORD, supply the wants of others, and make us thankful. *Amen.*

A GRACE AFTER MEALS.

FOR these and all his mercies, God's holy Name be praised. *Amen.*

* Numbers vi. 24, 25, 26.

THE END.

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